

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the two paragraphs at page 4, lines 1 to 13 with the following amended paragraphs:

According to the present invention, there is provided a process of discharging and transferring upwardly fluidized particles from a dense fluidizing layer forming section to a high-velocity transferring section having a diameter which is smaller than the diameter of the dense fluidizing fluidized layer forming section wherein at least one intermediate cylindrical section is provided between the dense fluidizing fluidized layer forming section and the high-velocity transferring section.

According to another aspect of the present invention, the diameter of the intermediate cylindrical section is preferably  $1/3$  to  $2/3$  times that of the dense fluidizing layer forming section.

Please replace the two paragraphs at page 4, lines 17 to 25 with the following amended paragraphs:

According to another aspect of the present invention, the intermediate cylindrical section has preferably ~~the~~ truncated cone ends connected to the dense fluidized fluidizing layer forming section and the high-velocity transferring section, respectively.

According to another aspect of the present invention, the truncated cone end directly connected to the dense fluidized fluidizing layer forming section has preferably an elevation elevated angle of  $40$  to  $80^\circ$ .

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, last 9 lines with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention provides a process of discharging and transferring upwardly fluidized particles from a dense fluidizing layer forming section to a high-velocity transferring section having a diameter which is smaller than that of the dense fluidizing fluidized layer forming section, characterized in that at least one intermediate cylindrical section is provided

between the dense fluidized fluidizing layer forming section and the high-velocity transferring section.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 13-26 with the following amended paragraph:

The diameter of the intermediate cylindrical section is preferably  $1/3$  to  $2/3$  times larger, and more preferably  $2/5$  to  $3/5$  times larger than ~~that~~ the diameter of the dense fluidizing layer forming section. Using an intermediate cylindrical section with such a size in relation to the dense fluidizing layer forming section, the gas velocity in the intermediate section reaches about 3 to 6 times faster velocity than the gas superficial velocity in the dense fluidizing layer and is sufficient to break up the above-mentioned clusters. Furthermore, the diameter of the intermediate cylindrical section is preferably 1.2 to 7 times larger, and more preferably 1.5 to 5 times larger than the diameter ~~that~~ of the high-velocity transferring section.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, last 13 lines to page 14, first 4 lines with the following amended paragraph:

An experiment was conducted under the same conditions as those of the Inventive Examples using an apparatus whose truncated portion (12) was directly connected to the riser (15) and whose remaining parts were the same as those of the apparatus used in the Inventive Example. As a result, it was observed that the pressure change in the riser was 127.4Pa (13 mmaq) and increased 1.6 times more than that of the Inventive Example. It was also observed that the collapse of the clusters rising from the fluidizing layer was insufficient, and most of the clusters passed through the truncated portions and reached the riser. Furthermore, it was observed that bulks of particles in the form of highly-dense vertical stripes were transferred, varying in time. Variation in particle load was observed in the cyclone and the following particle down-flow circulating line and clogging occurred frequently.

Please replace the "Abstract of the Disclosure" section with the following amended section:

A process is disclosed for discharging and transferring upwardly fluidized particles from a dense fluidizing layer forming section to a high-velocity transferring section having a diameter which is smaller than that of the dense fluidizing fluidized layer forming section, wherein at least one intermediate cylindrical section is provided between the dense fluidizing fluidized layer forming section and the high-velocity transferring section. The process can decrease the degree of changes in the amount of particles to be discharged from the dense fluidizing layer forming section and transferred by the riser, thereby providing a stable and uniform transfer of the fluidized particles.